9th September 1960]

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Yes, Sir. They have tried. Two units from the King Institute, Guindy, one a Bacteriological Unit and the other a Water Analysis Unit, were sent for further investigation. The report of the investigation conducted by the Bacteriological Unit shows absence of any bacteriological infection. Allergy was suspected but no positive evidence could be obtained. It is still a mystery. Later on, we tried to take some patients to the General Hospital for examination. But the patients were not willing to be taken over to the hospital.

Filariasis

* 121 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Filariasis is prevalent in epidemic form in Poonamallee area; and

(*b*) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to control the disease in that area?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) No, Sir. Filariasis is endemic in Poonamalle area.

(*b*) A statement [a] is placed on the table of the House.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it a fact that the prevalence of filariasis is so wide that even children are being afflicted with this nuisance of a disease?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: We are trying to combat this disease. Now we have taken up anti-malarial measures on a very large scale. We hope to control all these diseases like malaria and filariasis.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : The measures that may be adopted in the case of malaria may not be the methods that may be adopted in the case of filariasis. Whatever it may be, I would like to know whether the health centre that is situated here is rendering any service to the public of Poonamallee in regard to the prevention of filariasis. If it is rendering any service, may I know what kind of service is given?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : This is what is happening. Technical advice is given to the people. The measures taken are aimed at the reduction of the density of culx Fatigans, the Vector mosquito responsible for transmission of filariasis. I think this should be correct.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Yes, it is correct.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The other steps taken are to fill up the ponds with stagnant water. There are cases, I admit. They are not, however, prevalent in an epidemic form.

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[a] Printed as Appendix on page 219 infra.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it a fact that ponds are still there and that they breed any number of mosquitoes? Even the road-side ponds have not been filled up either by the Government or by the Panchayat.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : May be, they have not been completely filled up. But once we fill up, it is also true, when rains come, they are again filled with water.

Failure of rains and crops

3-10 p.m.

* 122 Q.—SRI A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was failure of rains and crops in and around the areas in Tiruvalangadu;

(b) whether there is any proposal to declare that area as famine area and give all necessary help; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to bring that area into the Community Development Scheme?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The Government have permitted the Collector of Chingleput to implement the orders issued by the Government of Andhra Pradesh with regard to the grant of certain concessions in this collection of land revenue and loans. The proposals for the grant of wet remission for wet lands and for the starting of Low Scale Famine Relief works are under consideration of the Government.

(c) Yes, Sir, in due course.

Degree Course in Indian Medicine

* 123 Q.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have addressed the University of Madras to institute a degree course in Indian Medicine; and

(b) if so, the nature of the reply received?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Cement stockists

* 124 Q.—VIDWAN T. MUTHUKANNAPPAN : Will the Hon. Minister for Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether any communication has been received from the Government of India to abolish the system of licensing cement stockists; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?